

FEB 1952 01-4AA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

**INFORMATION REPORT**

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 30 January 1953

SUBJECT United Nations POW's in North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF  
INFO. [REDACTED]NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1

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POW Camp Southwest of Yongbong-ni

1. On 13 September 1952 a POW camp, with 800 to 900 prisoners, was in a cave at YD-342816, southwest of Yongbong-ni (125-45, 39-34) (YD-3683). The cave was 200 meters long, 3 meters high, and had a wooden floor. The camp was established in August 1952 and the prisoners had all been captured after April 1952. The prisoners came to the camp from the Kangdong POW Camp Number 8 at YD-577242, north of Yongjong-dong (125-59, 39-02) (YD-5824). They received special attention and apparently were to be taken into the North Korean army if they gave their consent. The guards called them "liberated soldiers." They wore ragged North Korean army uniforms and received a daily ration of 400 grams of rice, 400 grams of other grain, and some vegetables, soy bean paste, and soy bean oil. They were guarded by two North Korean army platoons divided into two shifts.

POW Control Headquarters in Kirim-ni

2. On 13 September the headquarters of the North Korean bureau which supervised all POW camps in North Korea was in semi-underground houses 10 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 2 meters high, at YD-388246, on the northwest edge of Moranbong in Kirim-ni (125-45, 39-02) (YD-3824), near P'yongyang. Prisoners were brought to this headquarters immediately after capture and were sent to the Kangdong POW Camp Number 8 after being interrogated.<sup>1</sup> They were sent to various other camps throughout North Korea from the Kangdong POW Camp Number 8.

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The 5 Independent Enclosure of the 8 POW Camp Near Taet'aryong-ni<sup>2</sup>

3. On 13 September the 5 Independent Enclosure of the 8 POW Camp, with 1,000 South Korean prisoners, was in and around a former primary school about 300 meters west of the gate of Taet'aryong-ni (125-43, 39-02) (YD-3524). The prisoners had been slated to serve in the North Korean army but were returned to prisoner status after the peace talks began. They worked 4 hours a day and had 3 hours a week of news comments and political indoctrination taken from North Korean Labor Party publications. The truce talks were never mentioned. Most of the prisoners did not accept Communism and many planned to escape if possible. They sometimes sang ROK songs while marching. A daily ration of 600 grams, including rice, kaoliang, and soy beans, was issued. The prisoners were undernourished and dietary deficiency diseases were prevalent. They wore blue coveralls. POW was painted in red on the roof in Korean characters. There were 60 guards with four light machine guns. At night the guards were posted at 10 meter intervals.

POW Camp Near Maebong-dong

4. On 13 September a POW camp, with 1,500 ROK and 600 American prisoners, was in caves formerly occupied by the Unsan gold mine at YE-372324, <sup>3</sup> east of Maebong-dong (125-47, 40-01) (YE-3833). A daily ration of 700 grams of food, of which 70 percent was grain, was issued. Many were sick. The prisoners wore ragged dirty North Korean army uniforms. The American prisoners were rarely seen. The ROK prisoners made North Korean army uniforms with sewing machines and did some machine work with lathes and other machines and tools. There were compulsory political indoctrination classes 3 hours a week plus periodic debating and criticism sessions. Rallies denouncing the ROK and United States governments were staged occasionally. There were 120 guards with four light machine guns at the camp.

The Kangdong POW Camp Number 8

5. On 13 September the Kangdong POW Camp Number 8, with 2,000 ROK prisoners, was in houses formerly occupied by employees of the Taesong coal mine at YD-577242, north of Yongjong-dong (125-59, 39-02) (YD-5824).<sup>4</sup> The prisoners were organized into four companies plus a transportation company. There were four platoons in each company and four squads in each platoon. POW's were used for squad leaders and assistant platoon leaders. A daily ration of 600 grams of grain, of which 20 percent was rice, was issued. The prisoners wore tattered blue coveralls. Medical facilities were poor and the prisoners were unhealthy. They did light labor around the camp for 3 or 4 hours a day. Political indoctrination classes lasting 2 to 3 hours were held twice a week and discussion periods, during which the prisoners were allowed to criticize, were held periodically. The truce talks were not mentioned. The prisoners showed hostility toward the guards and other camp personnel. Some had escaped, usually during air raids. The head of the camp was a major; the political, management, and supply sections were headed by captains; a medical section of four was headed by a junior lieutenant. About 30 more people were on the staff. There were 150 guards under the direct command of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. They had four light machine guns. The officers carried pistols, and the enlisted men carried burp guns and Soviet rifles. POW was painted in white on the roof of the building in Korean characters.

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The Transfer of POW's to the Aoji Coal Mines

C-3 6. On 28 October 150 prisoners, including 18 white and 7 negro Americans arrived at Hamhung (127-32, 39-54) (CV-7517) on foot. There the POW's were loaded into three army trucks and taken to the Aoji coal mines (130-21, 42-31) (FC-1108). They were wearing ROK or North Korean army uniforms, North Korean army shoes, and each of them carried a blanket and a mess kit.

1. [ ] Comment. According to [ ] from a different source, an interrogation camp was at YD-421340. 25X1
2. [ ] Comment. It is not clear whether or not the 8 POW Camp and the Kangdong POW Camp Number 8 are the same. 25X1
3. [ ] Comment. The Unsan Gold Mine is at 125-44, 40-12 (YE-3353), according to AMS L751 Sheet 6334 4. There is a gold mine at YE-372324 but it is not named. 25X1
4. [ ] Comment. See [ ] for information on other POW camps in this immediate area. 25X1

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